

TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

2008 Legislative Report



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- Appropriations
- Commerce & Labor
- Health Care & Wellness
- Rules

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR OUR FAMILIES

Dear Friends,

We have returned to Olympia for a short, 60 day session and will remain focused on seeking thoughtful solutions to the many challenges that face our families and communities.

In our last newsletter, we included a short survey asking for your feedback on what issues matter to you and your family. The results were clear: you value public safety and reasonable taxes for families and small business, affordable health care, and quality schools. You want to make sure people are treated fairly and your voice is heard.

What we enjoy the most about serving as your representatives is the opportunity to make a difference on these and other important issues.

We also deeply value your feedback and insight.

Please feel free to contact either one of us, any time.

We are here for you.

Sincerely,

Tami Green Troy X. Kelley

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- Insurance, Financial Services & Consumer Protection (Vice Chair)
- Capital Budget
- Rules
- Technology, Energy & Communications

REP. TAMI GREEN • REP. TROY KELLEY

TAKING ACTION ON ID THEFT

In December we held a town hall meeting on the growing problem of ID theft. The event featured representatives from the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Postal Inspectors office, and the Attorney General's office offering common sense advice on what people can do to make sure they are protected.

In conjunction with this forum, we held a community shredding event where we rented a shredding van and provided its services free to members of the community. It is critical that all of us shred documents that contain our personal information so that identifying data will not fall into the wrong hands.



PROTECTING KIDS AND NEIGHBORHOODS

Over the past two years, we have helped pass landmark public safety legislation, including some of the nation's toughest sex offender laws and criminalizing repeat drunk driving offenses. This year we will continue to build on this record, improving tracking and monitoring of sex offenders and improving safety and alerting systems in schools, college campuses and other public places.

Working with law enforcement and prosecutors, we will continue to make smart, effective investments in public safety.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR OUR FAMILIES

CAPPING PROPERTY TAXES

As many of you may know, we returned to Olympia in December for a one day special session. The purpose was to reinstate voter-approved property tax limits at 1% per year. Keeping property taxes low has always been a priority for us—particularly lifting some of the burden on seniors and families.

Small business also benefits from keeping property taxes at a reasonable level, making this vote all the more important.

In the coming weeks we'll be looking at other ideas as well to improve the fairness of our tax system, while protecting critical services.

The 1% limit is a good place to start.



A SMART, BALANCED BUDGET: PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

In 2007 we passed a sustainable, 2-year budget that targeted new investments in our schools, public safety and health care without raising taxes.

As the economy slows, however, we will be looking for ways to tighten the belt without hurting the most vulnerable in our state.

With that in mind, we will be working on a modest supplemental budget this session that focuses on specific priorities and once again avoids tax increases.

We are also proud of the new Rainy Day Fund, passed by the legislature a year ago and validated by voters this past November. This new fund will set aside part of the current surplus for emergency use in a recession, natural disaster, or other crisis.

This too will help us avoid over spending when times are good, and making dramatic cuts during a downturn. This is just like we all do with our savings account at home.



T W E N T Y - E I G H T H D I S T R I C T

2008 PRIORITY LEGISLATION

Here are just a few of the bills we are working on right now:

- **ID Theft:** Building off our successful shedding event, we'll continue to educate the public and crack down on identity theft.
- **Sex Offender Monitoring:** We've passed tough sentencing, now let's improve monitoring and tracking.
- **Veterans:** We're working on a series of bills to assist veteran-owned business and improve quality of life for military families.
- **Small Business:** with the economy a concern, we'll push tax exemptions for starting a new business.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- **Capping Property Taxes**
- **Balanced Budget and Rainy Day Fund**
- **Protecting Kids and Neighborhoods**
- **Taking Action Against ID Theft**



Reps. Kelley and Green at the free community shredding event they sponsored to promote identity theft prevention.

Representative Tami Green
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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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US POSTAGE PAID
WA STATE DEPT
OF PRINTING 98501